

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A design change assistance system for assisting an evaluation on a related influential factor in a proposed design change, when conducting the design change, comprising:

a case input means for ~~inputting~~ a receiving design change case input data, including ~~existing~~ pre-existing design change contents and an item of an influential factor relating to ~~the design change contents~~ cost associated with the pre-existing design change and performances thereof, in a form of a rule table;

a database for accumulating data inputted through said case input means;

an evaluation target design change input means for ~~inputting~~ applying contents of the proposed design change on an evaluation target; and

a design change evaluation delivery means for ~~delivering~~ outputting an evaluation on the influential factor about the design change on said evaluation target ~~inputted in said evaluation target design change input means, upon basis of~~ based upon the case data accumulated in said database.

2. (Currently Amended) The design change assistance system, as ~~described~~ recited in the claim 1, wherein said influential factor further includes at least one or more of: a cost item ~~accompanying with~~ related to the design change on said evaluation target, a performance change of a design change target product ~~accompanying with~~ related to the design change on said evaluation target, and a presence of a related function part, on which a related design change is ~~necessary accompanying with~~ necessitated by the design change on said evaluation target.



3. (Currently Amended) The design change assistance system, as ~~described~~ recited in the claim 2, wherein ~~such design change contents can be delivered from upon basis of said case data, that a~~ an applied target cost and/or a target performance, which is set up for an object of the proposed design change, can be achieved on the basis of said case data.

4. (Currently Amended) The design change assistance system, as ~~described~~ recited in the claim 1, wherein ~~such design change contents can be delivered from upon basis of said case data, that a~~ an applied target cost and/or a target performance, which is set up for an object of the proposed design change, can be achieved on the basis of said case data.

5. (Currently amended) A design change assistance system for assisting an evaluation on a related influential factor in a proposed design change, when conducting the design change, comprising:

a case input means for ~~inputting~~ a receiving design change case input data, including ~~existing~~ pre-existing design change contents and an item of an influential factor relating to ~~the design change contents~~ cost associated with the pre-existing design change and performances thereof, in a form of a rule table;

a database for accumulating data inputted through said case input means; and

an evaluation target design change input means for ~~inputting~~ applying contents of the proposed design change on an evaluation target; wherein:

a relationship of said influential factor with respect to said evaluation target design change inputted in said evaluation target design change input means can be displayed in a form



**Application No.: 10/768,171**

of a design change influence network, by means of a combination of a node display and a linkage display, upon basis of the case data accumulated in said database.